

(Washington, DC)- Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17), who was re-appointed to the House Armed Service Committee this week, made the following statement in response to the recent announcement by the U.S. Army that the suicide rate has doubled in the National Guard:

**“The alarming rate of suicides within the National Guard is unacceptable, and it’s clear that we in Congress—and especially those of us on the Armed Services Committee—must take decisive action so that the men and women who protect our country get the assistance they need. Suicide is not only an issue in the military, but a problem in society at large and the third leading cause of death for people between the ages 15 and 24.”** said Congressman Tim Ryan. **“I plan to work with my colleagues to identify programs that will be most effective in the prevention, evaluation, and treatment of stress-related mental health issues in the military, and I intend to press the Department of Defense and the service branches for fast and lasting progress, and from there we can work to fix the issue at large.”**

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